



SOUTHEAST NEWS

December 2015 - January 2016

Southeast Elementary School, 134 Warrenville Rd., Mansfield Center, CT 06250 423-2793

Dear Families,

The warm glow of holiday buzz is all around us! I hope you had an enjoyable short break, and for those who celebrate Thanksgiving, I hope it was special in every way. Our Southeast family came together in two significant events. To start, the students and staff came together for a whole school meal prepared by our kitchen staff and served by our fabulous parents, just days before the Thanksgiving break. Those who attended were able to hear some delightful messages of gratitude by a handful of third grade students, a selection of songs by third graders and kindergartners, and all students were proud of their hand decorated place mats. Thank you to everyone who was able to join us and help make our celebration even better.



The school staff was also pleased to see so many parents for conferences. We appreciate your participation in the conference and your understanding of the time constraints. If you were *not* able to attend your conference, please contact your child's teacher so alternate arrangements can be made. There is a large amount of information that the teachers would like to share about your student's academic and social growth. The conferences are designed to allow for open dialogue about strengths and challenges so we can work together to best support your child's development.

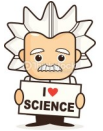
In the last newsletter I wrote about our daily Class Meetings and the first part of the meeting - the "Greeting." The second part of the class meeting is called "Sharing." This may be as simple as a student bringing something in from home and sharing about it's importance. This type of practice, called dialogue sharing, is typically seen in Kindergarten and First Grade Classrooms. After an individual student shares, he or she may answer questions about the sharing. Many skills are developed during this time - including thinking, speaking and listening skills, determining importance, and empathetic communication, in addition to possible subject matter content that may be shared. In the upper elementary grades, sharing may be a time to get to know each other better (possibly sharing a favorite story book character, or what is your favorite vegetable during a nutrition unit in class). Teachers are working with their classes to help them ensure that feedback and comments are caring and empathetic. Some students are more shy and others are more extroverted. Giving equal time to each student allows everyone to have an equal voice in the classroom, if they so chose. Please take the time to ask your children about sharing topics and their responses. We are enjoying getting to know our students and helping them grow in as many ways as possible.



Fondly,
Mrs. Lauren Rodriguez, Principal

Calendar of Events

- Dec. 7..... 6:30 pm- PTO Meeting
- Dec. 8..... 3:30-5:00 pm- Science Sampler, Gr. 3-4
(Talent Show postponed to Dec. 15th)
- Dec. 10..... 7:30 pm- Board of Ed. Meeting at SE
- Dec. 15.... 3:30-5:00 pm- Science Sampler, Gr. 3-4
6:30-8:00 pm- Talent Show
- Dec. 17..... 3:30-5:00 pm- Green Thumbs Club
- Dec. 24 to Jan. 1 **NO SCHOOL** - Winter Vacation
- Jan. 4..... Classes resume
6:30 pm- PTO Meeting
- Jan. 18..... **NO SCHOOL** - Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- Jan. 19..... **NO SCHOOL** - Staff Professional Day
- Jan. 21..... 3:30-5:00 pm- Green Thumbs Club



Parking Lot Safety



When picking children up from school, please park in a designated parking space. For safety reasons we cannot allow cars to park by the building, dumpster or alongside of other cars.

Drive slowly - 5 MPH in the parking lot.

Parents should hold their child's hand or keep them close. Children should not be allowed to wander or run in the parking lot.

Please be courteous to our safety patrols who are there to keep everyone safe.

Thank you for helping us keep our children safe.



Attendance Line/Nurse: 423-2793 Please call by 9:00 AM if your child will be absent or tardy

Southeast Elementary Luminaries

Written by Jim Jenks, SE Night Custodian

On Friday, November 13, Southeast Elementary School hosted a luminary display to honor our Veterans. There were over one hundred and sixty luminaries which honored men and women who have served or are currently serving from all of the wars and conflicts in which our country has been involved.

Although it was a windy night, that did not deter those who came out to show their support for our veterans and the children who made the luminaries. There were many heartfelt messages on the luminaries which brought a tear or a lump in the throat of those that have served and their family members.

The event was sponsored by Mrs. Cackowski's and Ms. Hathway's classes, however there were many more luminaries provided by all the grades and all of the staff from the school. Many of our students and staff have or have had parents or loved ones who have served in our armed forces, some of which are still serving today.



**Southeast students,
Sarah Bober and Ana Wehner
are organizing a
Southeast School Talent Show!**

All students are invited to participate.
Join us on Tuesday, December 15th at 6:30 pm
Contact Mrs. Irvine for more information
susan.irvine@mansfieldct.org.
We can't wait to show you how talented our
Southeast students are!

TALENT SHOW - DEC. 15th



GIVING TREE

Every year we put up an evergreen tree in the office for children to decorate with mittens, gloves, scarves and hats for local families in need. Both adult and child sizes are needed. We are requesting that all donations come in prior to December 18th. The items will be picked up by the Mansfield Youth Services Department for distribution.



We will also accept used warm coats and outerwear.



The children really enjoy seeing the tree fill up and knowing that they have helped keep someone else warm during these cold winter days.

Monetary donations to Mansfield Youth Services
will be accepted this year as well.

Thank you so much for your community support.

Visit our website: Mansfieldct.gov/southeast



Mrs. Gagne, Mrs. Popeleski and Mrs. Naumec prepared a delicious meal!



Miss Philopena delivers a message of gratitude.

Southeast School's Thanksgiving Celebration

The annual Thanksgiving Dinner was prepared for our Southeast K-4 students on Friday, November 20th. All of the students and faculty sat together to enjoy a family style meal, which included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, applesauce, cranberry sauce, gingerbread and milk. It was great to see a few former staff members who also joined us for our celebration.

The festivities began with Miss Philopena delivering a message of gratitude. Our kindergarten students entertained us by singing Thanksgiving Day songs. We were also treated to a violin performance by some of our Third Grade students. Ms. Kamienski's students finished by telling us what they were all thankful for.

SE staff and students would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Gagne, Mrs. Naumec and Mrs. Popeleski for preparing our delicious feast. Mr. Streeter and Mr. Jenks deserve a big thank you for their hard work setting up the tables and chairs for us. We are also very grateful for the energetic parent volunteers who arrived early to set up, serve and clean up for this special celebration day.

Check out our Webpage and Principal's Blog

mansfieldct.gov/southeast

Looking for a calendar of upcoming events, lunch menu, bus forms, staff directory, Teacher Homepages, PTO information, Health information and more? Our webpage has all that and more!



Look on our webpage for the icon like the one above to take you to Mrs. Rodriguez's Blog. She's reported on many of the events and celebrations we've had here at Southeast School and has included lots of photos. Enjoy!



Thank you for all the
Box Tops
and
Labels for Education.
Keep them coming!

Reminder:

Please call the attendance line
423-2793
by 9:00 am
if your child will be absent.



Holiday
Cards
Art
Project
for
Mansfield
Nursing
& Rehab.



Students from Mrs. Cackowski's 2nd grade class made Holiday cards in art class for the Mansfield Nursing and Rehab Center.

Toys, Electronic Devices and Other Items from Home

The school provides adequate amount of age appropriate materials, toys and games for indoor and outdoor recess. Trading toys and games in school or on the bus is not allowed. As a result, it is recommended that your child save his or her favorite toys (i.e., electronics, video games, action figures) for home, thus preventing lost or broken items.

Student cell phones and electronic devices, (i.e., mobile technologies such as portable readers and tablets) are not permitted without written parent permission. The school cannot be responsible for the loss or destruction of such items. This policy is listed in the Parent Folder you received on the first day of school. If you have any questions regarding the classroom or school guidelines for these items, please feel free to call us.